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or a controlled environment, e.g., a vacuum, nitrogen, rare gas, to a maximum temperature, and then holding the maximum temperature. For example, the temperature may be solely increased by about 2-3°C per hour from room temperature to a temperature of 160°C. Next, the temperature is increased by about 100°C per hour to a maximum temperature of 900-1100°C. Finally, the temperature is held at 900-1100°C for about 1-5 hours. The part is subsequently cooled. After the thermal treatment step, the porosity is usually about 40-50%.

Please substitute the following amended paragraph for the pending paragraph on page 8, lines 5-13:

a2

After injection molding, the resultant pre-sintered chamber 120 may be stored in a close fit recess of a storage unit 122 to support the relatively low strength body. Moreover, the pre-sintered chamber 120 is stored in unit 122 during a heating stage when the binder and the plug 114 are heated above their melting points and removed from the discharge chamber. A vacuum assist port 124 is provided to facilitate removal of the binder and plug materials. The resultant monolithic arc chamber is advantageously without joins. Beneficially, the internal plug sets the inner shape and volume of the part being molded.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 9 and amend claim 1 as follows:

a3

1. (Amended) A discharge chamber for a lamp, the discharge chamber comprising a ceramic article having a main body defining an arc chamber and generally opposed end members defining openings which accommodate an electrode or electrode lead through, said ceramic article having the main body and opposed end members comprising a monolithic body.
